

**WORKS ISSUED BY THE HAKLUYT
SOCIETY. NOTES UPON RUSSIA, VOL. II:
BEING A TRANSLATION OF THE EARLIEST
ACCOUNT OF THAT COUNTRY, ENTITLED
RERUM MOSCOVITICARUM
COMMENTARIII**

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SIGISMUND VON HERBERSTEIN & R. H. MAJOR

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REPORT FOR 1851.

THE Council of the HAKLUYT SOCIETY have the pleasure to announce a small increase in the number of their Members since the last anniversary. In reporting to the Members the actual state of their numbers, 319, on this the fifth anniversary of its existence as a Society, the Council cannot refrain from adverting to the heavy loss the Society has sustained by the death of one of its Vice-Presidents, and at the same time one of the most earnest and active friends of the Society, the much respected Sir Charles Malcolm. From the commencement of the Society their lamented friend took the warmest interest in its advancement. To him was due the acquisition not only of the names of many of his personal friends, but also of the Admiralty for two copies, and of the East India House for twenty copies of the Society's publications. In addition to this valuable help, his active assistance and influence were never withheld in the still more important point of gaining information or access to documents which might prove of service in promoting the Society's literary exertions.

The Council have pleasure in believing, that the publications of the Society continue to meet with approval and commendation; not only as affording amusement and instruction by their interesting details, but as important books of reference for the English student of geographical antiquity, and the history of discovery.

In the course of the past year, a work of great importance to the history of early travel in North America, and one the details of which have caused much interest and learned discussion among the literati of the United States, entitled, "The worthy and famous historie of the travailes, discovery, and conquest of that great continent of Terra Florida, being lively paraleld with that of our now inhabited Virginia", edited by W. Brenchley Rye, Esq., of the British Museum, has been delivered to the subscribers of 1851. In the preparation of this work Mr. Rye has not only supplied in his introduction copious details respecting the first travellers in Florida, but

has also endeavoured to elaborate the route of De Soto according to the best sources of information both in Europe and America, a subject which antiquarians have felt the greatest difficulty in unravelling consistently with the conditions of modern geographical knowledge.

The publication of this work has been followed by that of the first volume of the translation of the "*Rerum Moscoviticarum Commentarii*", the earliest account of Russia, by Sigismund von Herberstein. Translated and edited by the Secretary of the Society. The editor, in his introduction to this work, has endeavoured to supply his readers with an account of the visits of all the antecedent travellers to that country, together with a list of all publications prior to the year 1550 which in any way referred to the countries described in Herberstein's work. The second volume, it is hoped, will appear in about three months' time.

Meanwhile, another volume has been recently delivered to the Members for 1851, entitled, "Captain Coates' Remarks in many voyages to Hudson's Bay." This work, which has been edited by John Barrow, Esq., of the Admiralty, from a MS. presented to the Society by Sir Edward Parry, contains descriptions of the Esquimaux, and observations upon the geography of the country, written in a very graphic and interesting manner by a man who, though evidently uneducated, was an intellectual and shrewd observer. Mr. Barrow has added, by way of appendix to this interesting volume, the despatches of Captain John Middleton, a MS. document, intimately connected with the subject, and which he himself discovered amongst the archives of the Admiralty. The Council feel confident that a work treating upon former investigations in a part of the world which is causing so much attention at the present time will be received by their Members as an important addition to their publications.

The Council regret that Mr. Bolton Corney has not been able yet to supply the Members with his promised volume of "The East India Voyage of Sir Henry Middleton in 1604-5", to which, though long delayed, they look forward with great interest.

The other works in course of preparation are :

The second volume of the *RERUM MOSCOVITICARUM COMMENTARIUM*, as above described.

GERRIT DE VEER'S ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM BARENTZOOON'S THREE VOYAGES INTO THE ARCTIC OCEAN ; with Illustrations. Edited by Charles T. Beke, Esq., Phil. D.

A COLLECTION OF EARLY DOCUMENTS ON SPITZBERGEN AND GREENLAND. Edited by Adam White, Esq., of the British Museum.

MENDOZA'S HISTORIE OF THE GREAT AND MIGHTIE KINGDOME OF CHINA. Translated by Parke. Edited by Sir George T. Staunton, Bart., M.P.

THE WORLD ENCOMPASSED BY SIR FRANCIS DRAKE, 1577-80. Written by Francis Fletcher, preacher, etc. Collated with a MS. by the same hand in the British Museum, containing additional unpublished details. To be edited by W. Sandys Vaux, Esq., M.A. This work will be illustrated with a copy of a very valuable unique Map in the British Museum, showing the tracks of Drake and Cavendish.

A COLLECTION OF EARLY DOCUMENTS, to form a supplement to the Narrative of Voyages towards the North West, by T. Rundall, Esq.

SOFALAH. The History of Eastern Ethiopia, by J. dos Santos, 1607. To be translated, and edited with notes, by W. Desborough Cooley, Esq.

The translation of De Morga's "*SUCESOS EN LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS*", has also been undertaken.

The Council have pleasure also in informing the Members that they have succeeded, through the instrumentality of their President, in procuring from Russia a copy of a MS. of great interest, which has never appeared except in the original language. It is from the hand of a Russian traveller named Nikitin, a native of Tver, who, about the close of the fifteenth century, started on a voyage to India, which country he traversed as far as the Deccan, returning home after an absence of about six years. The document was enrolled amongst the archives of the celebrated monastery of the Sviatroitskaia Serguieva Lavra, near Moscow. It is of no

great length, but it is not improbable, that among the early voyages of the Russians, edited by Stroeve, Berkh, etc., documents may be found as suitable companions for publication with it. The translation of this work has been promised to be undertaken by the Count Wielhorski, Secretary of the Imperial Legation at the Court of St. James's.

The following six Members retire from the Council :

CHARLES T. BEKE, ESQ., PHIL. D.
 THE LORD ALFRED S. CHURCHILL.
 T. RUNDALL, ESQ.
 THOMAS HODGKIN, ESQ., M.D.
 P. LEVESQUE, ESQ.
 THE HON. E. J. STANLEY.

Of this number,

CHARLES T. BEKE, ESQ.
 THE LORD ALFRED S. CHURCHILL } *recommended for*
 P. LEVESQUE, ESQ. } *re-election.*

And the following for election, viz. :

JOHN BARROW, ESQ.
 SIR GEORGE T. STAUNTON, BART., M.P.
 HENRY DRUMMOND WOLFF, ESQ.

Statement of the Accounts of the Society for the year 1851.

£. s. d.		£. s. d.	
Balance in Bankers' hands at last		Mr. Richards for Printing	203 11 6
Audit	267 18 8	Spalding and Hodge for Paper	59 19 0
Received by Bankers during the		Illustrations	8 0 0
year	231 15 0	Transcriptions	21 15 6
Balance in Petty Cash at last		Advertisements	8 16 0
Audit	0 17 11½	Copper plates	0 8 1½
		Gyde for Bookbinding	1 14 4
		Gratuity to Mr. Honeyman	5 5 0
		Index to Geography of Hudson's	
		Bay	1 12 9
		Stationary, Postage, Proofs, etc.,	
		for etchings, and sundries	4 3 3
		Balance in Bankers' hands	178 11 8
		Balance in Petty Cash	6 15 3
	500 12 4½		500 12 4½

Examined and certified by us,

(Signed)

EDWARD HAWKINS,
 THOMAS WATTS.

March 2nd, 1852.

Against this balance in favour of the Society, is to be set £111 : 19 : 0 due to Mr. Richards for printing, while there remains uncollected from Subscribers, variously for the years 1847-52, about £480.

THE
HAKLUYT SOCIETY.

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Corr. Mem. Inst. Fr., Hon. Mem. Imp. Acad. Sc. St. Petersburg, &c. &c.

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THE HAKLUYT SOCIETY, which is established for the purpose of printing rare or unpublished Voyages and Travels, aims at opening by this means an easier access to the sources of a branch of knowledge, which yields to none in importance, and is superior to most in agreeable variety. The narratives of travellers and navigators make us acquainted with the earth, its inhabitants and productions; they exhibit the growth of intercourse among mankind, with its effects on civilization, and, while instructing, they at the same time awaken attention, by recounting the toils and adventures of those who first explored unknown and distant regions.

The advantage of an Association of this kind, consists not merely in its system of literary co-operation, but also in its economy. The acquirements, taste, and discrimination of a number of individuals, who feel an interest in the same pursuit, are thus brought to act in voluntary combination, and the ordinary charges of publication are also avoided, so that the volumes produced, are distributed among the Members (who can alone obtain them) at little more than the cost of printing and paper. The Society expends nearly the whole of its funds in printing works for the Members; and since the cost of each copy varies inversely as the whole number of copies printed, it is obvious that the Members are gainers individually by the prosperity of the Society, and the consequent vigour of its operations.

The Members are requested to bear in mind that the power of the Council to make advantageous arrangements, will depend, in a great measure, on the prompt payment of the subscriptions, which are payable

in advance on the 1st January, and are received by the Secretary, RICHARD HENRY MAJOR, Esq., 4, Albion Place, Canonbury Sq., Islington; and by Mr. RICHARDS, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, who is the Society's agent for the delivery of its volumes.

It is especially requested, that all subscribers who shall not have received their volumes within a reasonable period after the payment of their subscription, will notify the same to the Secretary.

ALREADY PUBLISHED.

The Observations of Sir Richard Hawkins, Knt.

In his Voyage into the South Sea in 1593. Reprinted from the edition of 1622, and edited by Capt. C. R. DEINKWATER BETHUNE, R.N., C.B.

Select Letters of Columbus.

With Original Documents relating to the Discovery of the New World. Translated and Edited by R. H. MAJOR, Esq., of the British Museum.

The Discoverie of the Empire of Guiana,

By SIR WALTER RALEGH, KNT. Edited, with Copious Explanatory Notes, and a Biographical Memoir, by SIR ROBERT H. SCHOMBURGK, Phil. D., etc.

Sir Francis Drake his Voyage, 1595,

By THOMAS MAYNARDE, together with the Spanish Account of Drake's Attack on Puerto Rico, edited from the Original MSS., by W. D. COOLEY, Esq.

Narratives of Early Voyages

Undertaken for the Discovery of a Passage to CATHAIA and INDIA, by the Northwest, with Selections from the Records of the worshipping Fellowship of the Merchants of London, trading into the East Indies; and from MSS. in the Library of the British Museum, now first published, by THOMAS RUNDALL, Esq.

The Historie of Travalle into Virginia Britannia,

Expressing the Cosmographie and Comodities of the Country, together with the Manners and Customs of the people, gathered and observed as well by those who went first thither as collected by William Strachey, Gent., the first Secretary of the Colony; now first Edited from the original manuscript in the British Museum, by R. H. MAJOR, Esq., of the British Museum.

Divers Voyages touching the Discovery of America,

And the Islands adjacent, collected and published by RICHARD HAKLUYT, Prebendary of Bristol, in the year 1582. Edited, with Notes and an Introduction, by JOHN WINTER JONES, Esq., of the British Museum.

A Collection of Documents on Japan,

With a Commentary, by THOMAS RUNDALL, Esq.

The Discovery and Conquest of Florida,

By DON FERDINANDO DE SOTO. Translated out of Portuguese by Richard Hakluyt; and Edited, with Notes and an Introduction, by W. B. RYE, Esq., of the British Museum.

Notes upon Russia,

Being a Translation from the Earliest Account of that Country, entitled *RERUM MOSCOVICARUM COMMENTARI*, by the Baron Sigismund von Herberstein, Ambassador from the Court of Germany to the Grand Prince Vasiley Ivanovich, in the years 1517 and 1526. Two Volumes. Translated, and edited with Notes and an Introduction, by R. H. MAJOR, Esq., of the British Museum.

The Geography of Hudson's Bay:

Being the Remarks of CAPTAIN W. COATS, in many Voyages to that locality, between the years 1727 and 1751. With an Appendix, containing Extracts from the Log of CAPT. MIDDLETON on his Voyage for the discovery of the North-west Passage, in H.M.S. "Furnace", in 1741-2. Edited by JOHN BARROW, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A.

Other Works in Progress.

GERRIT DE VEER'S ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM BARENTZHOON'S THREE VOYAGES INTO THE ARCTIC OCEAN; with Illustrations. Edited by CHARLES T. BEKE, Esq., Phil. D.

A COLLECTION OF EARLY DOCUMENTS ON SPITZBERGEN AND GREENLAND. Edited by ADAM WHITE, Esq., of the British Museum.

MENDOZA'S HISTORIE OF THE GREAT AND MIGHTIE KINGDOME OF CHINA. Translated by Parke. Edited by SIR GEORGE T. STAUNTON, Bart., M.P.

DRAKE.—The *World Encompassed* by Sir Francis Drake, 1577-80. Written by Francis Fletcher, Preacher, etc. Collated with a MS. To be edited by W. SANDYS VAUX, Esq., M.A.

SOFALAH.—The History of Eastern Ethiopia, by J. dos Santos, 1607. To be Translated, with Notes, by W. DESBOROUGH COOLEY, Esq.

THE EAST-INDIA VOYAGE OF SIR HENRY MIDDLETON IN 1604-5. From the rare Edition of 1606. Edited by BOLTON CORNEY, Esq.

A COLLECTION OF EARLY DOCUMENTS, to form a Supplement to the Narrative of Voyages towards the North West, by T. RUNDALL, Esq.

DE MORGÁ.—Sucesos en las Islas Filipinas.

Works suggested to the Council for Publication.

FRESCOBALDI.—The Travels of Frescobaldi in Egypt and Syria, in 1384. Translated from the Italian text as edited by Manzi.

BETHENCOURT.—A History of the Discovery and Conquest of the Canary Islands, made by Jean de Béthencourt, in 1402-25. From the French Narrative of his Chaplains, Pierre Bontier and Jean le Verrier.

CA DA MOSTO.—The Voyages of Ca da Mosto along the Western Coast of Africa in 1454. Translated from the Italian text of 1507.

VIRGINIA.—Virginia in the years 1584-1600; comprising the Narratives of Arthur Barlowe, Ralf Lane, Thomas Harriot, etc.

CADIZ.—A Brief and True Report of the Honourable Voyage to Cadiz, 1596. From the suppressed edition of 1598, with additions.

COLONIZATION.—Pamphlets on Colonization. By Sir William Alexander (afterwards Earl of Sterling), and James Hagthorpe.

JOAM DE CASTRO.—Rotiero em que se contem a Viagem que fizeram os Portuguezes no anno de 1541, partinando da Cidade de Goa atre Soez.

GALVANO.—Tratado dos descobrimentos antigos e modernos feitos até a era de 1550, composto pelo famoso Antonio Galvão. Lisboa, 1731.